

The President's Radio Address*August 3, 2007*

Good morning. Today I'm traveling to Minneapolis to the site of Wednesday's tragic bridge collapse. Like millions of Americans, I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news that the I-35 bridge gave way during rush hour. The bridge was a major traffic artery, and when it collapsed dozens of cars fell into the Mississippi River.

Laura and I join all Americans in mourning those who lost their lives and in sending our thoughts and prayers to their families. And we pray that those injured will make a full recovery.

On Thursday morning, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters and Federal Highway Administrator Richard Capka traveled to Minneapolis. They announced \$5 million in immediate Federal funding for debris removal and to help restore the flow of traffic. This is just the beginning of the financial assistance we will make available to support the State in its recovery efforts. Several Federal agencies are on the ground aiding State and local officials, including the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

I recognize how important the I-35 bridge is to the State of Minnesota, and my administration is committed to working closely with Governor Pawlenty and Mayor Rybak to rebuild this bridge as quickly as possible.

In times of tragedy, our hearts ache for those who suffer, yet our hearts are also lifted by acts of courage and compassion. We saw those qualities in the residents of a nearby apartment building who rushed to the scene to offer their help. We saw them in the divers who fought the mighty currents of the Mississippi to reach victims, and we saw them in the firefighters who searched car to car for survivors.

Among the survivors was a group of kids returning from a summer field trip. Their school bus had just passed over the Mississippi River, when the bridge below them gave way. The bus dropped more than 20 feet and came to rest on the guardrail of the collapsed bridge span. A staff member

named Jeremy Hernandez quickly swung into action. He broke open the backdoor and helped evacuate the terrified children to safety. The mother of one of the children on board credited Jeremy's presence of mind with helping spare her daughter from tragedy. She put it this way: "I don't know what he was thinking, but it must have been something really good."

Our country is fortunate to have brave and selfless citizens like Jeremy, and all those who risked their own safety to aid in the rescue. This is a difficult time for the community in Minneapolis, but the people there are decent and resilient, and they will get through these painful hours. As they do, they know that all of America stands with them, and that we will do all we can to help them recover and rebuild.

May God bless those who are hurting in Minneapolis, and may God bless our wonderful country. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on August 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 3. In his radio address, the President referred to Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota; and Mayor R.T. Rybak of Minneapolis, MN. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 28

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 29

In the afternoon, the President welcomed Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom to Camp David, MD.

In the evening, the President had dinner with Prime Minister Brown.

July 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with Ezekiel "Zeek" Taylor, the 2007 March of Dimes national ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew R. Cochran to be Inspector General at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert L. Smolen to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration.

July 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President met with Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.

The President declared an emergency in the Federated States of Micronesia and ordered Federal aid to supplement national and state response efforts in the area impacted by a drought beginning on March 5 and continuing.

August 1

In the morning, in the Private Dining Room, the President had breakfast with bipartisan congressional leaders. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. He then had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Map Room, the President participated in an interview with David Aaronovitch of Juniper Communications. Later, at Blair House, the President attended a reception for Office of Manage-

ment and Budget Director Robert J. Portman.

In the evening, the President was informed of the Minneapolis bridge collapse in Minneapolis, MN.

The President announced that he has named James F. Jeffrey as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser.

August 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, Mayor R.T. Rybak of Minneapolis, MN, and Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters to discuss the Interstate 35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis, MN.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Martha Raddatz of "ABC World News Tonight with Charles Gibson."

The President announced his intention to nominate A. Paul Anderson to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission, and to designate him Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dennis W. Carlton to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cynthia Dyer to be Director of the Office of Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carl B. Kress to be a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey William Runge to be Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service: Julie Fisher Cummings; Mark D. Gearan; Tom Osborne; Alan D. Solomont; and Donna N. Williams.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Spellings to be a Representative of the U.S. to the 34th General

Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for the duration of the conference.

The President announced his intention to designate John A. Gastright as U.S. Coordinator for Afghanistan and nominate him for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as U.S. Coordinator for Afghanistan at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to designate James H. Herring as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to designate Raymond Simon as Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to appoint Brock D. Bierman as the Small State and Rural Advocate at the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the Department of Homeland Security.

August 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President went to the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building where he had lunch with his counterterrorism and homeland security teams. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared an emergency in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on July 9–11.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 31

Andrew R. Cochran, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Nikki Rush Tinsley, resigned.

Robert L. Smolen, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, vice Thomas P. D'Agostino.

Submitted August 2 *

A. Paul Anderson, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2012 (reappointment).

Dennis W. Carlton, of Illinois, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Katherine Baicker, resigned.

Julie Fisher Cummings, of Michigan, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2011, vice William A. Schambra, term expired.

Cynthia Dyer, of Texas, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice, vice Diane M. Stuart, resigned.

John A. Gastright, of South Carolina, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Coordinator for Afghanistan, Department of State.

Mark D. Gearan, of New York, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 1, 2010 (reappointment).

Carl B. Kress, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2011, vice Steven Robert Blust, resigned.

Tom Osborne, of Nebraska, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2012, vice Cynthia Boich, term expiring.

* These nominations were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 3.